

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10 and 22 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating claim 7 therein, deleting colloidal microcrystalline cellulose, and reciting that the upper range of the water is 64.5%. The amendment reciting the upper range of the water content is supported in the present application, for example, in Examples 16-18, Table 10. Claims 3 and 4 are amended as a result of the amendment to claim 1, and claims 6 and 7 are deleted herein. Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

At pages 2-4 of the Office Action (final rejection) dated August 31, 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10 and 22 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Niemi in view of Masters, Venables and FR 2625676.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejection and respectfully request reconsideration thereof for reasons of record (incorporated herein by reference), as well as those comments set forth herein.

A telephonic interview was conducted between the Undersigned and Examiners Maewall and Gollamundi on March 3, 2011. The Undersigned notes with appreciation the professional and courteous manner by which the Examiners conducted the interview.

The distinctions between the present invention and the prior art were discussed during the interview (particularly, the recitation in the present claims that the composition has an as made viscosity of less than 200,000 cp). The foregoing amendments to the claims were also discussed during the interview. The Examiners indicated that such amendments would overcome the rejection of record and that a new search would likely be considered.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention is unobvious and patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Early, favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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